

profession, to assist in educating seniors about the options that are available to them.

I have held a number of meetings around my district with seniors in an effort to try to educate them, and they have wonderful questions, will this program help me, how do I know that it will cover the medications that I have, how do I sign up, how do I get that information.

If I may pass along a couple of items, the first is the Medicare number: 1-800-Medicare. There are many individuals available at that line to be able to help seniors. Also, the Web site, www.medicare.gov. I was on it just this morning and it has a wealth of information available to folks.

In these meetings that I had, I always had somebody available from CMS, or the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, with me to be able to help answer questions. But what I was most impressed with, in Georgia at least, the vast majority of seniors will be able to have a program that is better for them, covers more of their medications than they currently have with this Medicare program.

There are some important dates to remember. Today is the first date that is important. Today is the first day that seniors are able to sign up for a program whose coverage begins on January 1. This window of opportunity, that time to sign up, is between now, November 15, 2005, and May 15, 2006, even though the program begins on January 1.

Many seniors are currently receiving some prescription drug coverage now through a Medicare plus program or a supplemental program. I think it is important again for most seniors to appreciate that this program, the Medicare part D program, will be better for them than the current program that they have.

Again, 1-800-Medicare is the phone number. The Web site is www.medicare.gov. It is important that seniors look at the list of medications that they are currently taking and the list of medications that are available through the plans that are available to them and select one that is able to meld those that is going to cover the medications that they have.

It is an exciting time. It is a great opportunity for all seniors across our Nation. I encourage every senior to look at the options available to them and make certain that they are selecting a program that suits them best. I am hopeful that this will help improve the health care and the healthful status of all seniors across our Nation. I look forward to watching this program as it unfolds and as it evolves, and hopefully this will be an impetus to allow Medicare to be a much more nimble program.

PETER DRUCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Janu-

ary 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of an incredible individual. He was a teacher and a friend of mine, and he was known to the world as the father of modern management. I am referring, of course, to Professor Peter Drucker, who passed away last Friday at his home in Claremont at the age of 95. When I spoke to his wonderful wife, Doris, early Saturday morning, the first thing she said, of course, was that Peter led an incredibly full life, which we all know that he did.

I was able to, as an undergraduate, because of this great structure at the Claremont colleges, that allows for cross registration among the six different colleges, to begin taking classes as an undergraduate with Professor Drucker. Then, of course, going on to the graduate university there, I did the same.

His words and his wisdom have had a profound effect on my strong beliefs and personal responsibility, free markets, the power of entrepreneurship and, of course, the very healthy and important skepticism of the effectiveness of sprawling government bureaucracies. I remember having dinner with him just a few years ago, and he was talking about an Italian observer who said the greatest threat to the future of Italy is efficient government. He was a genius, he was a genius who generously shared his talents, his kindness and his time with so many of us.

For a man of such unparalleled vision and capability, he had wonderfully disarming sense of humor and an amazing humility. He was a world-class thinker and a provocative, as we all know, prolific writer.

When he was just 23 years of age, living in Germany, he wrote an essay that was both outlawed and burned by the Nazis. When he was 30 years of age, his first book, *The End of Economic Man*, was made required reading for graduates of the British Officers' Candidate School by Winston Churchill. All told he wrote over 30 books that sold millions of copies around the globe and influenced business leaders, social pioneers and heads of state.

The great thing was that while he had the ears of the world's top leaders in both business and government, he maintained his strong commitment to teaching. He put great emphasis on individuals, and their contributions to large organizations and society. He saw employees as a company's most valuable resource, and in working together toward a defined goal, its greatest source of progress and change.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. He also believed that the highest standards of ethics and morality were essential to both a successful enterprise and a vibrant society. Being a good corporate citizen was a duty on par and not at odds with maximizing profits.

Later in his career, he devoted much of his time to studying community organizations, because, in his words, the 21st century will be the century of the social sector organization. The more economy, money and information become global, the more community will matter. He donated his expertise to a wide range of organizations, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association. The results of his advice and leadership have played a role in responding most recently to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. His groundbreaking work resulted in many accolades and many opportunities to share his thoughts.

In 1987, Claremont named its graduate school of management in his honor. He was a regular economist for the *Wall Street Journal* for two decades, from 1975 to 1995. He was bestowed with 25 doctorates from universities in Europe and here in the United States.

In 1990, he created the Peter Drucker Foundation to bring together business and social leaders. One of the great thrills for me was I was able to be with Professor Drucker and his wonderful and extraordinarily talented wife, Doris, in the East Room of the White House when President Bush in 2002 bestowed the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in our country, on Professor Drucker.

The *Economist Magazine*, one of my favorite publications, called him the greatest thinker management theory has ever produced. In his book, *Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, Dr. Drucker described entrepreneurs as those who create something new, something different. They change or transmute values. By his own definition, it is clear that Dr. Drucker was an intellectual entrepreneur.

I mentioned this dinner that I had with him just a few years ago. I had the thrill of spending 3 hours with him. We talked about the impact that he had on so many people. The *Los Angeles Times* recounted that great entrepreneur Jack Welch, who headed General Electric, as saying that the turning point in large part came for him when Professor Drucker asked him the question, if you were not doing exactly what you are doing today, would you begin doing it, which was a very, very important point in determining what the future of General Electric was going to be.

I also remember our former colleague Amo Houghton often quoting Peter Drucker when he said every brilliant idea ultimately degenerates to hard work. He was an amazing individual. He was a man of great warmth and accomplishment, and I will miss him personally, and I know the world is better because of his life.

My thoughts and prayers are with Doris and their wonderful children and grandchildren. I will simply say to Professor Drucker, thank you, thank you, thank you for everything that you have done to improve the quality of life for so many.